

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) ~~An article of luggage characterized by a "soft" case construction~~ A soft suitcase including shaped lid and base forming sections, wherein the lid and base forming sections are moulded and are of such construction as to be shape wise self supporting maintaining in the absence of ~~any internal/external perimeter frame framing and reinforcing side, base or and back panels, whereby the form of the case is established and maintained by the molded lid and base sections~~ wherein the lid and base forming sections are hinged connected together by means of a Zip fastener arrangement that provides both an opening and closing facility for the suitcase and additionally selective expansion of a storage volume of the suitcase, wherein a pair of wheels is provided at one end of the base forming section, there being one such wheel for each corner of said end, and wherein the lid and base forming sections comprise foamed plastics material.

2. - 25. (Canceled)

26. (New) The soft suitcase as claimed in claim 1, wherein said selective expansion of the storage volume of the suitcase provided by the Zip fastener arrangement incorporates first and second separately operable Zip fasteners, the first Zip fastener providing the opening and closing facility and the second Zip fastener providing the selective expansion, and wherein a gusset is provided between zipping portions of said second Zip fastener that is associated with the selective expansion, the Zip fastener arrangement being such that the volume of the suitcase can be selectively increased by appropriate operation of said second Zip fastener.

27. (New) The soft suitcase as claimed in claim 26, wherein a multiple volume expansion facility is provided by additional Zip fasteners incorporated in the Zip fastener arrangement, each additional Zip fastener having associated therewith an expansion gusset,

whereby operation of a Zip fastener associated with a particular gusset enables an associated volume expansion of the suitcase.

28. (New) The soft suitcase as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lid forming and base forming sections incorporate corrugations so positioned as to counteract wrinkling at corners of the mouldings arising from the moulding thereof.

29. (New) The soft suitcase as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a second pair of wheels provided at an end of the lid forming section corresponding to the end of the base forming section at which the first pair of wheels is located.

30. (New) The soft suitcase as claimed in claim 29, wherein the first and second pair of wheels are so located on the respective lid and base forming sections as to lie at corners of a rectangle.

31. (New) The soft suitcase as claimed in claim 1, further comprising piping configured to provide stiffness to the Zip fastener arrangement.

32. (New) The soft suitcase as claimed in claim 31, wherein the piping is stiffened internally.

33. (New) The soft suitcase as claimed in claim 1, further comprising piping between the Zip fastener arrangement and the lid forming section, between Zip fastener portions of the Zip fastener arrangement, and between the Zip fastener arrangement and the base forming section.

34. (New) The soft suitcase as claimed in claim 1, wherein the foam plastics material is EVA.

35. (New) The soft suitcase as claimed in claim 1, wherein the base forming section has an opening and further comprising a towing handle arrangement located in the opening.

36. (New) The soft suitcase as claimed in claim 1, wherein each wheel of the pair of wheels are included as part of a respective wheel assembly of a pair of wheel assemblies and wherein the base forming section has a pair of indentations to define mounting locations for the pair of wheel assemblies.

37. (New) The soft suitcase as claimed in claim 36, further comprising a second pair of wheel assemblies and wherein the lid forming section has a second pair of indentations to define mounting locations for the second pair of wheel assemblies.